Dumping of toxic ashes into Indian ocean by U.S. ship

1080. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that a US ship "Felica" carrying toxic ashes has dumped it in Indian Ocean near Bangladesh coast;

(b) if the report is true, whether any protest has been lodged with the U.S. Government;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to prevent Indian Ocean being turned into toxic ocean by developed nations; and

(d) whether Government propose to raise this issue immediately in world bodies?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, no factual information is available regarding the foreign ships dumping toxic wastes in our territorial waters.

(b) Since no factual information is available, the question of protest does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have already alerted the Ministries of Surface Transport and Finance (Department of Revenue) and also the Indian Coast Guard to prevent any ship from calling at Indian ports and discharging wastes. The Indian Coast Guard organisation have taken necessary steps to prevent the entry of foreign vessels suspected of *mala fide* intentions. The port authorities of Indian ports are also warned about the movement of such vessels so as to deny their entry into the Indian ports.

(d) A Global Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal was finalised last months under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme in which India also participated.

Trade ties between India and Yugoslavia

1981. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Yugoslavia have recently entered into some trade ties and barter links; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The Governments of India and Yugoslavia have extended in Sept., 1988 the validity period of the Link Deal Arrangement subsisting between the two countries for a further period of 2 years, namely from 1.10.88 to 30.9.90. This Arrangement provides for an ESCROW mechanism in terms of which the imports from Yugoslavia are paid in US dollars into an account with the SBI, London for being utilised for Yugoslav purchases from India. Under this arrangement, the public sector trading agencies like MMTC, STC, etc., also enter into two way trade deals for import of items needed by Indian economy such as steel products, chemical products, etc. and export to Yugoslavia of items such as iron ore/concentrates/pellets, coffee, chemical items, etc. The Indo-Yugoslav Joint Business Council set up jointly by the FICCI and Yugoslav Chamber of Economy also met in New Delhi from 23rd to 24th February, 1989 in the course of which the Business Council discussed at the business level promotion of trade. The Joint Business Council made a broad assessment that the Indo-Yugoslav trade could be increased to as high a level as $300 million during 1989.